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Lucia A Keegan 09/06/2006 09:52:39 AM From DB/Inbox: Lucia A Keegan

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 05944

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TO RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY 0714

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 005944

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2016

TAGS: PREL PHUM UNSC BM FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE OFFERS UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR PUTTING  
BURMA ON UNSC AGENDA

REF: STATE 145162

Classified By: POL M/C JOSIAH ROSENBLATT FOR REASONS 1.4 B AND D

¶1. (C) We delivered reftel point on September 5 to Jeremie Petit, the Burma desk officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In response, he reiterated France's staunch support for putting Burma on the U.N. Security Council's agenda. Petit said France is very concerned about Burma's ongoing contempt for the international community and its refusal to institute promised reforms. France is further concerned about trafficking in drugs and the spread of HIV and believes a discussion of Burma in the Security Council is a modest first step towards finding some resolution to these problems.

¶2. (C) Petit nonetheless voiced some skepticism that a UNSC agenda item alone would do much to spur the notoriously intransigent Burmese regime to reform. If the efforts of Burma's close neighbors, particularly Thailand, to encourage reform have proved unsuccessful, then a UNSC agenda item is unlikely to have an immediate impact, Petit suggested.

¶3. (C) Finally, Petit amplified the MFA's view, saying that

it is unlikely the issue will enjoy consensus, as China undoubtedly will oppose putting Burma on the agenda. That said, France will certainly support the measure, even if a vote is required.

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